

## SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

### AADHI PARVVAM

#### 15. MaathruSaapaPresthaavam (15. Saying or Explaining About the Curse of Mother [Kadhru])

Kadhru, the mother of snakes, cursed her children, the serpents or snakes, that they would be burned to death in the Sarppa Jenamejeyaa's Sathram or Serpent Sacrifice. As Jenamejeya was conducting the Sarppa Sathram and burning the snakes, Aastheekan who was the son of Jeralkkaaru Maharshi, and his wife Jeralkkaaru saved the snakes. And Aastheekan also conducted the rituals for his forefathers and pleased them also.

#### Soothan Said:

Oh, Brahmajnendhra or the Noblest Leader of all Brahmarshees! In the past the snakes were cursed by its own mother, Kadhru, that you would be burned to death during the Sarppa Sathram which would be conducted by Jenamejeyan. 1

Vaasuki offered his sister to that great Virtuous Ascetic Maharshi, Jeralkkaaru, in order to get some relief or release from that curse. [Vaasuki is also the son of Kadhru, and all the serpents or snakes are considered to be children of Kadhru.]. 2

Jeralkkaaru married the sister of Vaasuki in accordance with Vedhic rituals and led a Grihasthaasrama Jeevitham or Family Life. And he duly produced a son for his wife. He is the noblest ascetic called Aastheekan.

3

He, Aastheekan, is a great Ascetic with severe austerity and penance and a Mahaathmaavu or Great Soul. He is a great scholar of Vedhaas and Vedhaangaas or branches of Vedhaas or Upanishathths, Ithihaasams, and Saasthraas. He is the one who uplifted his ancestors to the eternal region and thus removed the fears of his both parents. He is the one who sees everyone equal or regards all with an even eye. 4

I heard and learned that after a long gap or space of long time the king who was born in the family of Paandavaas who was one of the top leader and ruler of his subjects conducted a great Sarppa Sathram or Snake-Sacrifice.

5

This Thaapasa Saththaman or The Best and Noblest of Ascetic released or saved snakes from the Snake-Sacrifice conducted by Jenamejeya to destroy all the snakes. 6

Thus, Aastheekan saved not only his offspring, uncles, and the entire Serpent or Snake family [As Aastheekan is the son of Jeralkkaaru, the sister of Vaasuki, his offspring are snakes and maternal uncles like Vaasuki, etc. are Snakes.] and also his Pithroos who were his ancestors by performing the rituals. 7

I was able to clear out all my indebtedness by my severe austerity and long and hard penance. I was able to pay back my debt to Dhevaas or gods by performing Yejnjaas or Sacrifices and to Rishees or Munees or Sages by my Brahmacharyam or Celibacy. 8

And my debt to Pithroos or Forefathers by producing Santhathi or Sons or Children or maintaining Santhathi Parampara or Progeny and performing Vedhic Rituals and enabling them to attain Eternal Region and thus by fulfilling their wishes and removing the burden on my shoulder. 9

Thus, Jeralkkaaru, who was as great as Pithaamahan or Brahma Dhevan, with rigid vows discharged his debt he owed to his ancestors and relieved all his bondages and attained heaven. And he depended upon his, Jeralkkaaru's, son Aastheekan and his Vows, Austerity, and Penance. 10

As the result of such virtuous and sacred performance Jeralkkaaru lived in heaven for a long time. Oh, the best of Bhrigu Family or Saunaka! Please let me know what else I should narrate now? 11

**So ends this section.**